Indian seeds industry

†553. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Multinational companies are consolidating their position in the field of Indian seeds industry;

(b) whether its consequences have been discussed with the farmers' unions and agriculture experts; and

(c) what is Government's policy in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The requirement of the seed in the country according to National Seed Plan is 253.39 lakhs quintals, against which the availability of seed was 194.31 lakhs quintals in 2007-08. The share of Public Sector in making available/supply of certified/quality seeds in the country to the farmers is increasing as shown in the table given below:

(Quantity in Lakh Quintals)

Year	Government Agencies		Private including Multinational Companies	
	Quantity	%	Quantity	%
2005-06	73.67	52.43	66.84	47.57
2006-07	79.62	53.73	68.56	46.27
2007-08	111.59	57.43	82.72	42.57

Public sector has a major share in high volume low value seeds like cereals, pulses and oilseeds where as private sector seed industry dominates the high value low volume seed sector.

National Pharma Policy

554. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the draft National Pharmaceutical Policy has been finalized;

(b) whether the Group of Ministers has submitted its Report;

(c) if so, what are the major recommendations made by the GOM;

(d) how the above policy is going to rein in generic drugs which are now being sold to chemists and other medical stores more than 400 per cent of price of medicines supplied to them;

(e) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to set up National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research in Hyderabad; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (d) Draft National Pharmaceutical Policy

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

was considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 11.1.2007. The Cabinet has referred the Policy to Group of Ministers (GOM). The First meeting of the GOM was held on 10.4.2007 and the Second meeting was held on 12.9.2007. No time-frame has been set for finalizing the National Pharmaceuticals Policy. The Proposed policy also contains certain measures for regulating the trade margins.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research has been set up in the R&D Centre of IDPL in Balanagar, Hyderabad. It has been inaugurated on 19.10.2007. The Institute has admitted students for three post graduated progrmmes for the academic year 2007-08. The institute would impart higher education, research and development in pharmaceutical sciences.

Loss making drug units

555. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the public sector drug manufacturing companies running in losses;

(b) the details of assistance provided by Government for running these companies during the last three years, company-wise;

(c) whether it is fact that some Ministries/Departments of Government purchase costly drugs from private companies instead of public sector companies;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to persuade these Ministries/Departments to purchase drugs from public sector companies only?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) The details of assistance provided by the Government to loss making public sector drug companies during the last three years are as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	Name of PSU	Year	Amount
1.	Hindustan Antibiotics Limited (HAL)	(i) 2004-05 (ii) 2005-06 (iii) 2006-07	(i) 7.27 (ii) 30.30 (iii) 131.69
2.	Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Limited (BCPL)	(i) 2004-05 (ii) 2005-06 (iii) 2006-07	(i) 4.64 (ii) 9.73 (iii) 124.19
3.	Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Limited (IDPL)	(i) 2004-05 (ii) 2005-06 (iii) 2006-07	(i) Nil (ii) 7.00 (iii) 0.95

(c) and (d) The information is not centrally maintained.

(e) Government has approved preferential purchase of 102 medicines manufactured by Pharma CPSEs and their subsidiaries by Departments/Ministries, PSUs, Autortomous 'Bodies, Hospitals, etc. of the Central Government. State Governments are also required to purchase